

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 22-25 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 13, and 14 are withdrawn. Claims 20-21 are canceled. Claims 2, 4-12, and 15-24 are rejected. New claim 25 is added. Claim 2 is amended herein to clarify the invention. Claims 4-12, 15-19 and 22-24 are amended based upon formalities, such as to change the claim dependency or to conform to antecedent language. Such formal matters are considered unrelated to substantive patentability issues.

Applicants respectfully submit that, upon entry of the subject amendment, the application will be in condition for allowance. Applicants, thus, respectfully request consideration of the above amendment and following remarks.

Of the rejected claims, claim 2 is in independent format. Claim 2 is directed to a heat exchanger having a plurality of fin members and a meandering pipe body. The meandering pipe body includes a plurality of straight pipe sections, a pair of meandering pipe sections, and a connection pipe for connecting the meandering pipe sections. The connection pipe is curved outwardly while being twisted in the circumferential direction with regard to axes of parallel straight pipe sections. Such construction narrows the distance between the meandering pipe sections. Support for such connection pipe is found at least at original claim 21, and at the connection pipe 13 shown in figure 18 and described at paragraph [0104].

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC §102(b), and in the alternative, 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Marukasa Shigeo (JP 2001 199697).

Claim 2 distinguishes over the cited art based at least upon the following claim limitations:

- ... the **connection pipe** between the one and the other meandering sections at one of the straight pipe section sides **is curved outwardly while the connection pipe is twisted in the circumferential direction** with regard to the axis directions of the straight pipe sections to narrow the distance between the one and the other meandering sections,...

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not disclose a meandering pipe body having a connecting pipe that connects two meandering pipe sections, in which the connecting pipe curves outward and twists circumferentially with regard to axes of two straight pipe sections. A benefit of such a connecting pipe is that the heat exchanger is easier to manufacture. In particular the fin member is less likely to be damaged during construction. As a result, the durability of the heat exchanger is improved, while effective manufacturing is achieved. Further, use of a meandering pipe main body realizes a non-bulky product in dual directions. The heat exchanger may be compact while having high layout freedom, (i.e., the exchanger may use simply a small space, such as an underfloor of vehicles.

Claims 4-12, 15-19, and 22-24 ultimately depend from claim 2, and distinguish over the cited art based at least upon the same reasons as discussed above for claim 2.

New claim 25 is an independent claim and distinguishes over the cited art based at least upon the following claim limitations:

- wherein the **connecting pipe section curves outwardly and twists circumferentially along its length** from the first meandering section to the second meandering section.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not disclose ~~connecting~~ pipe section that curves outwardly and twists circumferentially along its length between first and section meandering sections. The benefits of such a connecting pipe are the same as discussed above for claim 2.

Applicants respectfully request a one month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. **The fee of \$130.00 for the extension is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.**

If there is any discrepancy between the fee(s) due and the fee payment authorized in the Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 or the Form PTO-2038 is missing or fee payment via the Form PTO-2038 cannot be processed, the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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